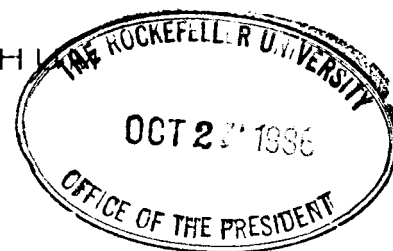


RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

Fakultät für Biologie
Lehrstuhl für Biologie der Mikroorganismen
Prof. Dr. U. Winkler



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Prof. Joshua Lederberg
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Den 9.5.1986/Wi/Mi

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

On the occasion of the 70th birthday of Prof. H. Brandis, retired medical microbiologist at the University of Bonn, I have the pleasure to give a lecture. (In the middle of the fifty's I did my Ph.D. work on transduction (Salmonella flagella genes) in Prof. Brandis laboratory.)

For my lecture at Bonn I chose the title "Consequences for society of (the discovery of) sex in bacteria" and my intention is to use this subject for demonstrating the need to spend more money for basic research.

At present research grant organisations in Germany ask you frequently for the immediate consequences of your research projects for health service, economy, ecology etc.!

What I would like to do in my lecture is to relate early discoveries and concepts of basic research in E. coli (e.g. fertility factor, prophage λ , operon) to modern applied fields like oncology (provirus concept), genetic engineering and biotechnology. This is the reason to write you this letter.

1. Did you write any paper on personal aspects of your discovery of recombination in bacteria; I would appreciate a copy of it. I know your paper published in Science 118, 169-175 (1953).

2. At the time of your Ph.D. work you were a fellow of the Jane Coffin Childs Memorial Fund for Medical Research. When you applied for this fellowship did you ask specifically for supporting research on sexual conjugation in bacteria? Who else supported your research on the genetics of E. coli in the early days of the main discoveries?
3. Where did you perform most of your early work on E. coli?
 - at the Yale University as Ph.D. student of E.L. Tatum?
 - at the University of Wisconsin?
4. When did you begin to relate your discoveries on recombination in bacteria to other biological or medical problems for example to cancer? Where was it published?

I think I should stop now asking you. You know what kind of information I'm interested in. I beg your pardon for disturbing you.

In 1960/61 I spend a year in Max' lab at Caltech; in 1965/66 I worked in Werner Arbers lab in Geneva. Francis Ryan was a good friend of mine. I worked for many years in R.W. Kaplans lab on mutability of phages and repair processes. At present I'm working mainly on the physiology of Ps. aeruginosa (exolipase, alginate etc.).

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'U. Winkler', with a stylized, cursive script.

(Prof. Dr. U. Winkler)